GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:409
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2002
REVIEW OF RURAL URBAN CLASSIFICATION FOR TELEPHONE SERVICES
A.K. PREMAJAM

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has decided to revise the rural/urban classification for extending concessional tariff for telephone subscribers in accordance with the latest Census Report-2001;

(b) if so, the number of villages classified as urban, on the basis of Census Report 2001, in Kerala;

(c) whether the location Code Map of the Census Report-2001 has been received from the Census Commission for the rural/urban classification;

(d) if so, the date on which it was received by the Corporate Office of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited;

(e) whether criteria of classifying an area into urban/rural, used for census purpose can be used for the purpose of extending concessional tariff for telephone subscribers; and

(f) if not, whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited will revise the classification?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PR MAHAJAN)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STA QUESTION NO. 409 FOR 18TH DECEMBER, 2002 REGARDING REVIEW OF RURAL/URBAN CLASSIFICATIOI TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The Census of India identifies all areas into urban and rural based on which Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) applies urban and concessional rural tariff to its subscribers as the case may be. Instructions have already been issued in April, 2002 to the field units to apply urban and rural tariff, as the case may be, in terms of classification given in Census report 2001. Areas are not classified as urban or rural by the BSNL on any other consideration.

In Kerala, 263 villages, out of a total of 1627 villages, have been classified as fully urban and 76 villages have been classified as partly urban and partly rural.

Corporate office of BSNL has recently purchased a soft copy of the Census report 2001.This report gives the details of urban and rural classification of areas.